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LETTER DATED 5 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) (i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I should inform you, and through you the members of the Security Council, that on 5 November 1997, in my capacity as Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, I decided that the U-2 flight scheduled for this week operated by the Commission for the purposes of inspection, monitoring and verifications, should be postponed.

My decision to postpone the flight was taken in response to a request from the Secretary-General. Were the flight to have taken place as scheduled between 5 and 7 November, it would have occurred during the period while the Secretary-General's Personal Envoys were delivering the message of the United Nations to the Iraqi authorities that the Special Commission's operations must be fully and unconditionally reinstated.

The Special Commission's U-2 flights are an important and integral part of the process of inspection, monitoring and verification. They assume an even greater importance while Iraq continues to block the Commission's ground inspection teams from carrying out the tasks set by the Security Council. For at least these reasons, I have decided that the Commission will resume its U-2 flights next week. I will be notifying the Iraqi authorities accordingly.

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER

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